

## **Situational Update on A (H7N9) Influenza Virus from the Milwaukee Health Department**

April 12, 2013

As you may have seen in the media over the past two weeks, the World Health Organization (WHO) along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced the emergence of a novel pathogenic strain of influenza in a number of provinces including and surrounding the City of Shanghai in eastern China. The influenza A(H7N9) virus has been confirmed in 43 individuals and has resulted in 11 deaths from severe respiratory illness. This virus has never before been seen in humans and appears to have genetic sequences similar to several wild and domestic avian (bird) species. There is currently no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus and no confirmed reservoir identified at this time. Both WHO and the CDC are following the situation very closely.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has issued surveillance alerts to health care providers including hospitals in the area to enhance surveillance for A(H7N9) influenza in travelers recently returning from China and who are experiencing flu-like symptoms. This recommendation is consistent with current CDC guidance to clinicians in this regard. Furthermore, the MHD is monitoring reports of illness in the community along with review of incoming laboratory data for influenza virus type. The CDC is reporting no case of A(H7N9) having been identified in the United States to date. While there is no vaccine currently available for this subtype of influenza, the virus does appear susceptible to certain categories of antivirals.

The MHD will continue to monitor international, federal, and state public health information as forthcoming in the next weeks and provide additional updates as warranted.

Further information can be found at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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